

**Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
Volunteer Position Announcement
FY2014**

Project Title: Kodiak Brown Bear Monitoring

Agency: Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Location & Dates: Kodiak Island, AK - May 12 to August 30 or later, 2014

Job Description:

Volunteer field research assistant needed to assist on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Kodiak Brown Bear and Salmon project. Working long hours in remote, rugged, inclement conditions, volunteer will assist KNWR staff in monitoring Kodiak brown bear habitat use, activity, and ecological relationship to spawning salmon. Duties may include: deploying and maintaining photography equipment used to monitor bear density and salmon runs; ground-truthing satellite imagery; counting salmon and bears in time lapse photographs; entering data in MS Access and ArcGIS; conducting preliminary data summary and analysis; carrying a firearm and acting as a bear guard. **Extensive experience with ArcGIS preferred.**

This position requires extended field deployment via float plane or helicopter without access to communications (e.g., internet or telephone). Mandatory training includes: Firearms Safety, Bear Awareness, Aircraft Safety, and Aircraft Water Ditching and Survival (including a simulated plane crash in a pool). Applicants must be able to arrive on Kodiak Island by May 12 to participate in scheduled training. Lodging will be in both cabins and tents. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will cover round-trip airfare to Kodiak, pay all field costs except personal gear, provide housing and a small daily living allowance while in town. For additional information about volunteering in Kodiak, please visit our website:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kodiak/get_involved/volunteer.html.

Qualifications:

Required skills and experience

- capable of intense physical activity, including working extended hours under harsh weather conditions, hiking substantial distances through rugged terrain in bear country, and carrying 50 lbs. of gear.
- a good attitude and sense of teamwork.
- prior experience collecting biological data in the field.
- strong desire to live and work in back-country setting for several months (including living and working from a tent for 2-week periods).
- basic knowledge of fish biology.
- capable of carrying a shotgun (should be proficient shooter or willing to become proficient through practice).
- GPS & Excel

Preferred skills

- ArcGIS & Access database
- basic mechanical and/or electrical skills
- experience living and working in bear country.

Application period: December 20-January 15, 2014. Please email a **single document** with the following: a cover letter addressing the above criteria, your resume, and email addresses for 3 references to William Leacock (william_leacock@fws.gov) and Lisa Hupp, Volunteer Coordinator (lisa_hupp@fws.gov). Successful applicant will be notified by March.